

MENA Women News Brief

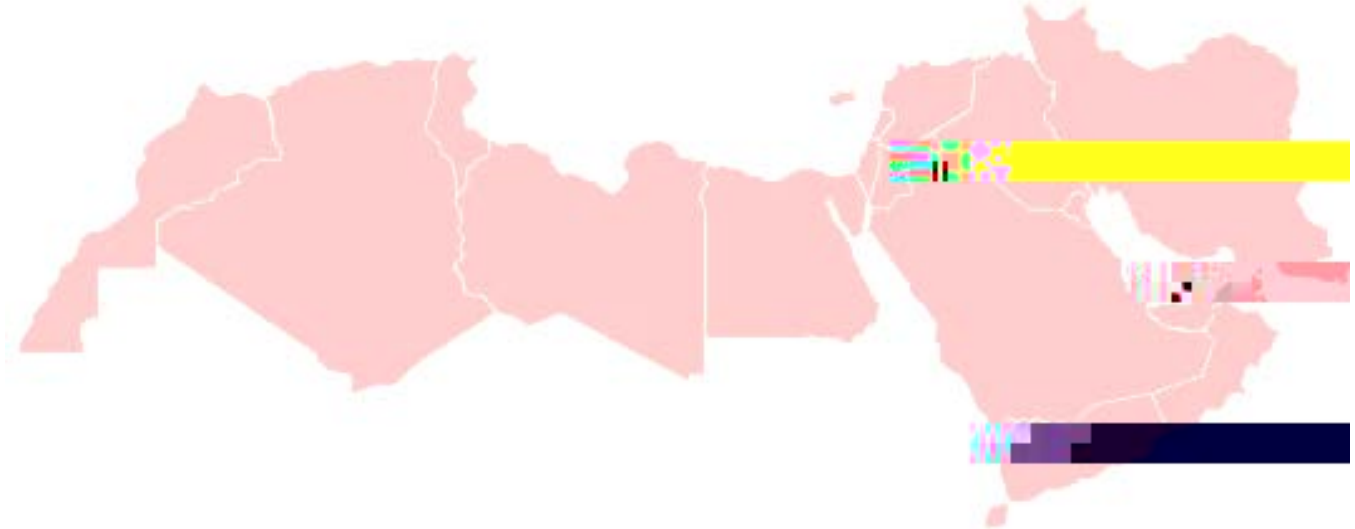
January 17-January 31, 2017

Egypt

January 22: The girls spearheading roller derby's revival in Egypt

“Egypt is famous for many things, but roller derby isn't one of them. Diab along with her fiercely competitive teammates known as the CaiRollers want to change this. Just 25 girls make up the team created over four years ago -- hardly enough for a sporting revolution—but the CaiRollers are focused towards a slow and steady track to derby hegemony.” [\(CNN\)](#)

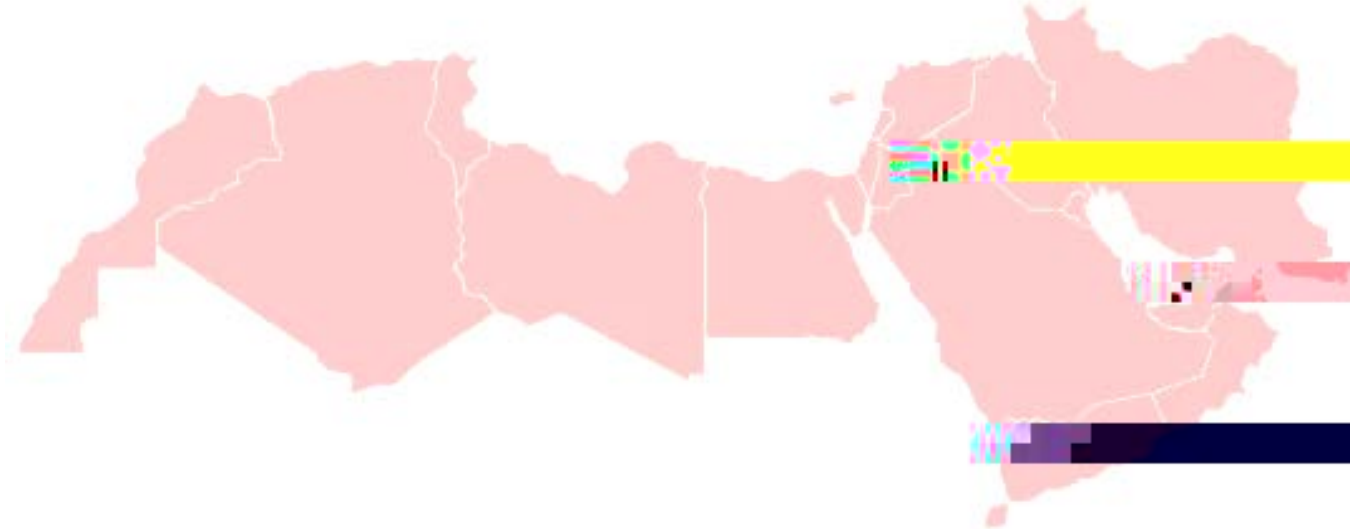
January 23:



Iraq

January 26: These Yazidi sisters took up arms to take revenge against ISIS

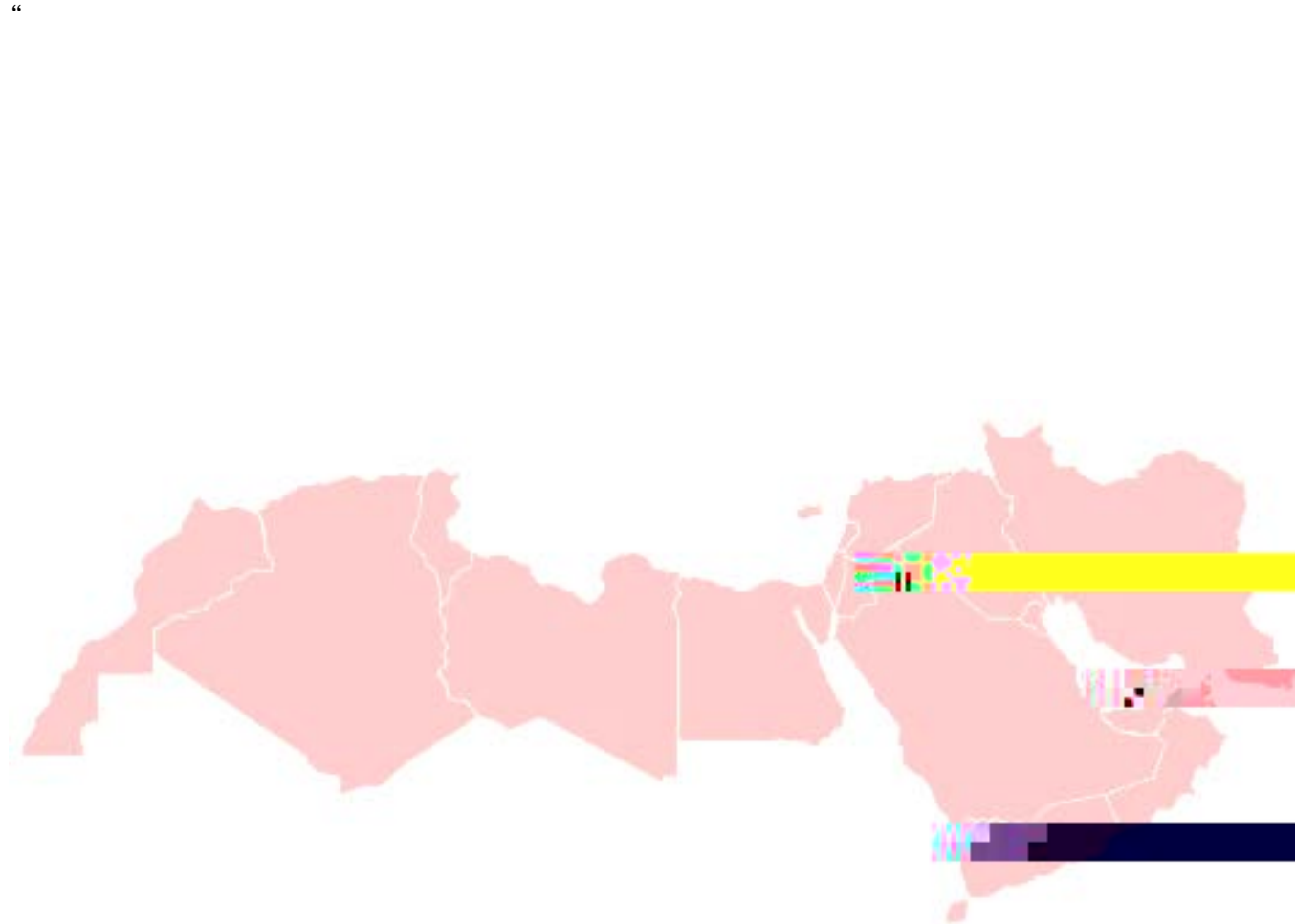
“After her lucky escape, Khatoon wanted to fight back. This was a crime against humanity, but it was also a crime against women. She thought women should play a role in fighting back. She refused to be a victim. Her solution was to form the first all-female Yazidi fighting battalion. They call themselves the Sun Ladies. The battalion received weapons, training and support from the government of semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq. They are the first female battalion of the Peshmerga—the Kurdish region’s army—which translates to ‘those who face death.’” [\(PRI\)](#)



applicants and their families started organizing on social media, particularly those who wanted to apply to the air force.” [\(Al-Monitor\)](#)

United Arab Emirates

January 25: Emirati woman astronaut hopes to travel to Mars



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